



# Kenai Peninsula College

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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## Tribal Governments:

Koliganek Village Council  
New Stuyahok Traditional Council  
Ekwoik Village Council  
Native Village of Aleknagik  
Curyung Tribal Council  
Ekuk Village Council  
Clark's Point Village Council  
Portage Creek Village Council  
Nondalton Tribal Council  
Iliamna Village Council  
Newhalen Tribal Council  
Pedro Bay Village Council  
Kokhanok Village Council  
Igiugig Village Council  
Levelock Village Council

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have been contracted by the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a cultural/traditional ecological knowledge assessment of villages in the Bristol Bay region. This information will assist in the development of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to build a common understanding of potential impacts to Bristol Bay's salmon fishery and to identify possible options for protecting these resources. The following three questions are central to this analysis:

■ Is the Bristol Bay salmon fishery the one of a kind, world class fishery that it is depicted to be?

■ What are the existing and potential risks to Bristol Bay's salmon fishery associated with large-scale development activities such as hard rock mining?

■ Are there technologies or practices that will mitigate these risks?

We are interested in learning from Elders and culture bearers about the importance of streams, salmon and related wild foods to the people of the area. We would like to hear from Elders and culture bearers in your village who are selected by your council. Elders may prefer to speak in Yup'ik or Dena'ina in which case we ask that someone from the village act as interpreter. We would like to solicit feedback from about three men and three women in each of the six communities. The meetings will take about

two hours. The list of suggested questions is attached and we will be interested in any other information people wish to offer in addition to those covered by the questions. Interpreters and participants will be paid \$80 per hour. We will record and transcribe and use the information to write the assessment for EPA Community participants will not be identified by name but will be asked to sign a consent form (attached). In addition the project methodology is attached.

Unfortunately, we do not have time to visit every village that wishes to participate. We will be able to conduct interviews in about six villages. Any gatherings of Elders would make this job easier and less costly. For those villages we cannot visit, we would like to forward the list of suggested questions to village councils who may want to conduct a meeting with Elders or culture bearers in their village. A consent form would still have to be signed. The responses could be sent via e-mail or regular mail to me at the address at the top of this page. We ask that the person responding be identified. If a response is the consensus of a group, such as a tribal council, that should also be identified. We need to be able to track where we got the information, if not we cannot use it. Please feel free to contact us before you start.

We will return copies of recordings, transcriptions, and our report to the villages for review. We want to accurately portray the role of streams and salmon in the lives of the river villages in the Bristol Bay drainage.

We ask that we be able to take photographs or perhaps short videos around the village and will abide by any restrictions.

Thank You,

**Alan Boraas**

(electronic signature)

Dr. Alan Boraas

Professor of Anthropology

**Catherine Knott**

(electronic signature)

Dr. Catherine Knott,

Adjunct Professor of Anthropology